

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/462,994	SCHWALKE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brook Kebede	2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11,12,15-18 and 20-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 January 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Bergner on January 4, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 13-14 and 19.

Change claim 11 to -- An integrated circuit arrangement comprising: a semiconductor substrate having at least one doped region; a plane arranged on a surface of said semiconductor substrate and having a number of conductive useful structures and at least one conductive filler structure which exhibits essentially the same height, said conductive filler structure having no circuit oriented function, said conductive filler structure being conductively connected to said doped region; **and a contact connecting said conductive filler structure to said doped region via a through hole; wherein said through hole overlaps said conductive filler structure and said doped region exposing a surface of said conductive filler structure and a surface of said doped region said contact being in communication with said surface of said conductive filler structure and said surface of said doped region.--**

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Change claim 18 to --A method for manufacturing an integrated circuit arrangement, said method comprising the steps of: forming a doped region in a semiconductor substrate; forming a plane on a surface of said semiconductor substrate by applying and structuring a conductive layer, said plane having a number of conductive useful structures and at least one conductive filler structure, producing an insulation layer surrounding and covering said conductive useful structures and said conductive filler structure; producing a conductive connection between said conductive filler structure and said doped region; **opening a through hole in said insulation layer, said through hole respectively partially overlapping said conductive filler structure and said doped region for partially uncovering a surface of said doped region and a surface of said conductive filler structure; and forming a contact in said through hole, said contact being in communication with said surface of said conductive filler structure and said surface of said doped region.--**

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 11, 12, 15-18, and 21-24 are allowed over prior art of record.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application is allowed after the appeal conference was held on January 3, 2005 and telephonic communication was made with Mr. Mark Bergner, attorney for applicants, on January 4, 2005 in order to amend claims 11 and 18 and place the application in condition for allowance.

In addition, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed subject matter of the instant application as a whole either taken alone or in combination, in particular, prior art of record does not teach "a contact connecting said conductive filler structure

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to said doped region via a through hole; wherein said through hole overlaps said conductive filler structure and said doped region exposing a surface of said conductive filler structure and a surface of said doped region, said contact being in communication with said surface of said conductive filler structure and said surface of the doped region,” as recited in claim 11, and “opening a through hole in said insulation layer, said through hole respectively partially overlapping said conductive filler structure and said doped region for partially uncovering a surface of said doped region and a surface of said conductive filler structure; and forming a contact in said through hole, said contact being in communication with said surface of said conductive filler structure and said surface of said doped region,” as recited in claim 18 respectively.

Claims 12, 15-17, and 20-24 are also allowed as being dependent of the allowed independent base claim.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Correspondence

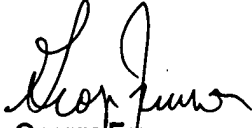
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brook Kebede whose telephone number is (571) 272-1862. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 Monday to Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on (571) 272-1855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BK
January 6, 2005


George F. Furson
Primary Examiner